(b) On receipt of the complaint, enquiries were taken up and it was revealed that Bhagan Branch (Murthal) money order No. 4115 dated 5.11.99 transmitted through V-SAT network did not reach the destination. A duplicate money order was got issued which has been paid to the payee on 28.2.2000.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above does not arise.

Opening of Post Office/Telegraph Office at Bironkhal Block, Pauri Garhwal

1252. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Baijrao area of Bironkhal Block of Pauri Garhwal, U.P. does not have the facility of telegraph office;

(b) whether it is also a fact that village Sukai of above-said block being biggest in that area does not have the basic facility of a post-office and people have to travel long distance to avail this facility; and

(c) if the reply to (a) and (b) is in affirmative, the reason therefor and by when Government intend to provide these facilities to the residents of above said places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no telegraph office in Baijrao area of Bironkhal Block of Pauri Garhwal, U.P. because as per DoT norms such an office is not justified there.

(b) Presently there is no post office at Sukai, which is being served by Sub Post Office Baijrao situated at a distance of 4 Kms. As per 1991 census, the population of Sukai is 616.

(c) For opening of a post office at Sukai, no request has been received nor any demand is pending.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Meghalaya

1253. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years;

(b) the name of places in the State where new post offices offices and branch post offices are likely to be opened in the next three years; and

(c) the number of post offices upgraded in Meghalaya during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post offices opened in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years are as under:

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Nil	Nil	5	4 till now

(b) The annual Plan for the next three years is yet to be finalized.

(c) The number of Post Offices upgraded in Meghalaya during the last three years are as under:

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Nil	1	Nil	1 till now

Revision of Telegraph Act

1254. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telegraph Act, 1885 is not relevant today in view of Government's new planning policy in this regard; and

(b) if so, by when it would be revised to make it relevant and up-to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been amended from time to time to cater to the changing requirements in the sector. Keeping in view the major changes and technological developments in the Telecom Sector, this enactment is being reviewed by a group constituted under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The Group is likely to give its report by the end of March, 2000.